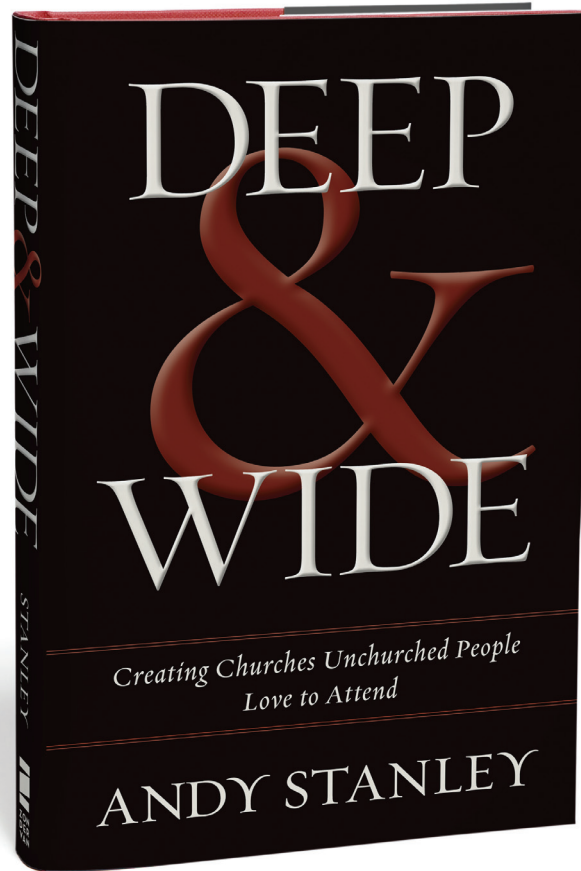


TEAM DISCUSSION GUIDE



*Creating Churches Unchurched People
Love to Attend*

ANDY STANLEY

HOW TO USE THE TEAM DISCUSSION GUIDE

This *Team Discussion Guide* is designed to help you and your team (staff, elders, deacons, and/or key volunteers) work through the book *Deep and Wide* by Andy Stanley. Andy raises some key issues relating to the purpose, mission, and strategy of *your church*. The goal of this guide is to help you process the many lessons Andy and his team have learned as they continue to strive to create churches “unchurched people love to attend.” The hope is that these insights will be helpful to you as you seek to optimize the influence your ministry is having on the unchurched. We believe these ideas will inspire you to take your ministry even “deeper” and “wider.”

*book introduction
and section one*

MY STORY

1. Andy writes: “Every church should be a church irreligious people love to attend” (page 12). How do you feel about that statement?

2. Do you think a survey like the one in Appendix A could be helpful to your church?

3. When Andy started a new campus from an existing church, he did not expect comparisons to happen between the two campuses. Are comparisons happening between your church and another? How do you think unhealthy comparisons can be prevented?

4. What can you learn from Andy and his father about how to deal with conflicts in your church?

section two

OUR STORY

INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 3: “WORDS MATTER”

1. In your community, what are the usual answers to the question, “What is the church?”
2. How do you and your team define “church”?
3. How has your understanding of *ekklesia* expanded after reading this chapter?

4. After Constantine (AD 313), how did the *ekklesia* change and why?

5. How is the resistance to change that reformers such as Huss, Tyndale, and Luther experienced similar to the pushback you might experience if you tried to make changes in your church? How is it different?

6. What questions should your team ask to discover whether your gatherings are *ekklesia* or *kirche*? (See the bulleted list on page 67.)

CHAPTER 4: “JUST AS I AIN’T”

1. Recall the “Gay Pride Day” story from this chapter (pages 70–72). How do you think your church would respond in this situation?
2. What is the most important lesson to acknowledge in regard to managing the tension between grace and truth? (page 72)
3. How did Jesus exhibit “unfair and inconsistent” behavior, even though he was full of grace and truth?

4. Andy talks about “the glorious mess” of grace and truth at North Point (pages 78–83). How does your church deal with those kinds of messes? Give examples.

5. What might “open up to you” if your church would dare to manage the tension between grace and truth?

CHAPTER 5: “DEFYING GRAVITY”

1. Discuss “the defining moment” in Acts 15 at the Jerusalem Council. What was the crucial issue?
2. Why would the Jews be offended and Gentiles perplexed about salvation issues in the early church?
3. How does a church disguise its intent to be “a church for unchurched people”?

4. How might your church be “making it difficult for those who are turning to God”?

5. Discuss: How do you think an unchurched visitor would describe his or her first exposure to your church?

section three

GOING DEEP

INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 6:
“MY BIG DISCOVERY”

1. How do you react to this idea: “We don’t believe [discipleship] classes create mature believers. Classes create smart believers”? (page 101)

2. What does a mature believer look like? How does your church “grow” those believers?

3. Andy writes: “At its core, Christianity is an invitation to reenter a relationship of trust with the Father” (page 105). How does the Bible support this? How does your church support this?

4. What “amazed” Jesus? (page 106)

5. What are the “five faith catalysts”? Do you resonate with them as ways God grows faith?

CHAPTER 7: “PLAYING MY PART”

1. How would you describe in your own words the faith catalyst “practical teaching”?

2. Discuss the statement: “People are far more interested in what works than what’s true” (page 114). If you agree, how could this influence the preaching and teaching at your church?

3. Jesus played to people wanting to be blessed or happy. Who does your church need to “play to”?

CHAPTER 8: “FROM OUT OF NOWHERE”

1. How are the last two catalysts (providential relationships and pivotal circumstances) different from the first three?
2. What two things define a “providential relationship,” and how does your church leverage this catalyst?
3. How does your church increase the opportunities for providential relationships to happen?

4. Andy defines pivotal circumstances as *defining moments that impact our faith*, positively or negatively. How does your church leverage these defining moments in order to grow people's faith? Share some examples.

section four

GOING WIDE

INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 9:
“CREATING IRRESISTIBLE ENVIRONMENTS”

1. Can you identify with Andy and Sandra’s experience visiting other churches? How have these experiences convinced you that “environment matters”?
2. Discuss this statement: “Time in erodes awareness of” (page 159). Is that true in your church?
3. Who is responsible for defining what an “irresistible environment” means in your church?

4. How do you think first-time, unchurched guests would describe your environments? Does your church have a way of getting “fresh eyes” on your environments to judge what “first impressions” might be?

5. Discuss North Point’s process for creating engaging presentations (pages 172–182). If you think that process would benefit your church, how could you implement it?

6. Do you agree that it’s helpful to intentionally “contextualize” the Bible’s content? If so, in which areas of ministry in your church would this be most beneficial?

CHAPTER 10: “RULES OF ENGAGEMENT”

1. What do you and your team define as “the win” for Sunday morning?
2. “Your current template is perfectly designed to produce the results you are currently getting” (page 201). Does your template lead to “the win” your ministry hopes to achieve?
3. How can your church create “common ground” for the churched and the unchurched in your community?

CHAPTER II: "DOUBLE-BARREL PREACHING"

1. Do you agree with Andy's premise that it's possible to effectively engage the "churched" and the "unchurched" with the same message? Discuss how you're currently doing this and how you might be able to do it better.
2. According to Andy, why do so many eighteen- to twenty-five-year-olds drop out of church and who is responsible for this? (See "Discovery Zone" on pages 230–231.) Do you agree? Does this ring true for your church?

3. Andy writes: “When people are convinced you want something *for* them rather than something *from* them, they are less likely to be offended when you challenge them” (page 235). Evaluate your church against this standard.

4. Seven guidelines for preaching to the unchurched are presented in this chapter. What is your reaction to “Give ’em permission not to believe . . . or obey”?

5. What challenged you the most from the seven guidelines presented in this chapter? Which, if any, of these guidelines do you think your church should adopt? Discuss.

section five

BECOMING
DEEP
AND
WIDE

INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 12:
“COMING TO BLOWS WITH THE STATUS QUO”

1. Leaders need to be agents “creating a culture that embraces rather than resists change.” If you agree with this statement, how would you begin to create that culture in your church?

2. Consider these statements: “Every innovation has an expiration date” (page 265) and “We are foolish to assume our ideas are transgenerational” (page 267). Are there innovations in your church that have “expired”?

3. Identify how your church system illustrates this statement by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner: “Any system will unconsciously conspire to maintain the status quo and prevent change” (page 268).

4. Andy writes: “The catalyst for introducing and facilitating change in the local church is a God-honoring, mouthwatering, unambiguously clear vision” (page 270). How is vision “the key” to bringing about change?

5. If it’s not good to begin by asking what needs to be changed, then how would you begin?

6. If you and your team agree that you will need “to make people discontent with where they are,” are you willing to tackle the resistance you will most likely face? If so, how will you do it?

CHAPTER 13: “MISSION AND MODEL”

1. Discuss this statement: “New ideas are good ideas as long as they don’t require anyone to actually do anything new” (page 278). Have you seen this to be true in your church?
2. “One of the primary reasons churches are empty is because church leaders love their models more than they love people” (page 281). This is quite a bold statement. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? Incorporate into your discussion the relationship between your *model* and your *mission*.
3. Ask yourselves: What is our mission? Does our model (the way we do things) advance or obstruct our mission?

CHAPTER 14: “LED TO LEAD”

1. Do you see yourself and/or your team “babysitting a model of ministry of a previous generation”? If so, discuss specific areas where this is true.
2. What is the main point behind the story about Jesus recruiting Paul and teaming him with Luke?
3. Are the job descriptions in your church aligned with “giftedness”? Or are they in conflict? Give some examples of both.

4. What do you celebrate in your church? What do you measure?

5. Andy believes that asking the right questions will make your ministry more effective. Of all the questions listed in this chapter (pages 302–304), which ones would be best to ask in your church?

conclusion

“WHAT
IF?”

1. Read again the story about Barry and his baptism (pages 307–309). Have there been “What if?” moments in the story of your church? How is your church preparing for the “Barrys” in your community?
2. What are you and your church praying for? Do your prayers line up with the prayers in the book of Acts?
3. In “The Parable of the Credit Card” section, Andy asks: “What does your church obsess over? What is your church preoccupied with?” (page 315). Answer these questions honestly, and discuss them as a team.

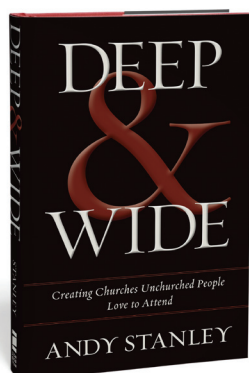
NOTES

NOTES

The Deep & Wide Team Discussion Guide is designed to help you and your team process the many lessons learned by Andy Stanley and his team as they continue to strive to create churches “unchurched people LOVE to attend.” These insights will be helpful to you as you seek to optimize the influence your ministry is having on the unchurched. Andy writes,

“Our goal is to create weekend experiences so compelling and helpful that even the most skeptical individuals in our community would walk away with every intention of returning the following week ... with a friend!”

If your team is more concerned with who you are REACHING than who you are KEEPING, *Deep & Wide* will be more than a book you read; it will be a resource you come back to over and over!



For purchase information, including group discount rates, visit www.DeepandWideBook.com
